

CITY OF FALLS CHURCH POLICE DEPARTMENT 2013 ANNUAL REPORT



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Message from the Chief

It is an honor to present the Falls Church Police Department's Annual Report for 2013. The year 2013 was highlighted with extraordinary police services provided by the men and women of the Falls Church Police Department. Each year public safety is confronted with day to day challenges in our own community, but as public safety employees, we respond to threats in our global, national and regional communities. A large part of our public safety mission and Emergency Management function is to prevent, intervene and mitigate damage and loss from manmade and/or natural disasters. In 2013, as a nation, a commonwealth and a city, we concentrated on the lessons learned in the tragic events of Sandy Hook in Newtown, Connecticut and the Boston Marathon bombing; we fortified our school security efforts and we enhanced security measures with special events. With each and every threat poised to our community and communities afar, we strive to be better public safety planners and first responders. Because we are located in the middle of the Washington Metropolitan area we must be forever vigilant, ready and steadfast, keeping abreast of all current events, daily traffic and parking patterns to keep the City safe and vibrant for all to enjoy.

It is inspiring to be a part of an employee and volunteer corps of various City Departments that continues to grow in commitment and resilience to ensure the public's safety in the City. Much of the success we have enjoyed this past year can be attributed to the ongoing partnership with the City Departments and our inter-jurisdictional partners such as: the Arlington Commonwealth's Attorneys' Office under the direction of Ms. Theo Stamos, Arlington Fire Department under the direction of Chief James Schwartz and the Arlington Sheriff's Office under the direction of Sheriff Beth Arthur.

Throughout the year 2013, we have many success stories that can be attributed to the Officers and administrative staff of the Police Department, yet we know that the true success is in the team of partners we work with daily. We are fortunate to have a generous compliment of Sheriff Deputies in Falls Church lead by Sheriff Steve Bittle and a number of Falls Church Volunteer Firefighters lead by Chief Paul Schomburg. Additionally, we are fortunate to work daily with our mutual aid partners and neighboring jurisdictions throughout the region to include: Fairfax County Police, Arlington County Police and Fire and the City of Alexandria Police. We enjoy and support a regional approach to public safety and proudly participate in the continued efforts of the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Taskforce and the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments.

Each and every Officer, the Fire Marshal, the Crossing Guards, the Animal Control Officer, the Parking Enforcement Officer, the Communications Dispatchers and Administrative staff are firmly committed to the safety and concerns of all citizens and visitors to Falls Church. We are also very grateful for the brave citizens that truly are the first responders in many instances that make the call to police and fire services to ensure the safety for all in the Little City.

It is our privilege to serve the City.

Mary Gavin

Mission Statement

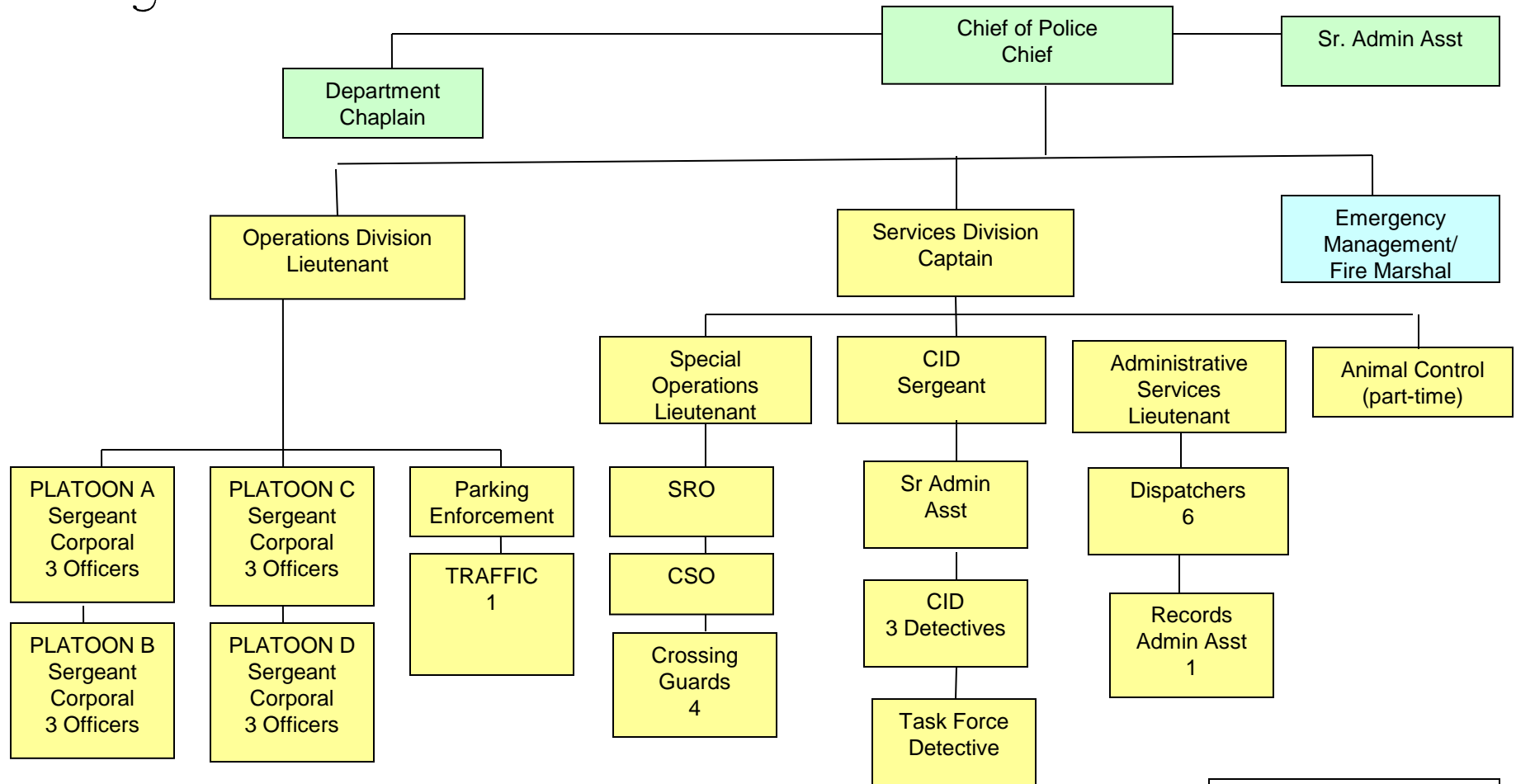
The Falls Church Police Department is committed to providing and maintaining the highest quality public safety service to the community at large and to its neighboring partners through prevention, intervention, investigations and enforcement in all facets of the criminal justice and emergency management systems.

Core Values

Commitment
Communication
Teamwork

Innovation
Learning
Empowerment

Organization Chart



AUTHORIZED STRENGTH	
SWORN	32
CIVILIAN	15
CROSSING GUARDS	4
VOLUNTEER	1
TOTAL	53
July 2012	

Statistics

	2013	2012	Difference
Part I Offenses - Total Number	321	278	15.5%
Part II Offenses - Total Number	467	387*	20.7%
Arrests - Total Traffic	4,450	4,636	(4%)
- Total Criminal	1,467	1,210	21.2%
- Total Adult	1,447	1,180	22.6%
- Total Juvenile	20	30	(66.7%)
- Felony	121	68	77.9%
- Misdemeanor	1,346	1,142	17.9%
DWI - Total Number	107	116	(7.6%)
Accidents (reportable) Total	192	181	6.1%
- Persons Injured	29	51	(43.1%)
Calls for Service - Complaints	2,433	2,266	7.4%
- Runs	28,573	24,161	18.3%
- Total	31,006	26,427	17.3%
Parking Tickets - Total	3,528	1,073	228.8%
* This figure has been revised, using more accurate analysis methods now available.			

The Chief of Police provides direction in all matters within the Department and coordinates with other City Departments and local law enforcement agencies. The Sr. Administrative Assistant is responsible for providing lead administrative support to include managing the office work flow, preparing of the Department budget, Department payroll, screening visitors and a host of other duties.

Operations División

The Operations Patrol División is the most visible of the Department's Divisions, as it is responsible for responding to calls for service in the City 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The officers provide proactive patrol and respond to complaints from citizens, investigate motor vehicle accidents and perform traffic enforcement duties. Of the 21 officers in the Operations División, one Officer has been assigned to the Traffic unit and one civilian employee is assigned to the Parking Enforcement Officer (PEO) position. The purpose of the Traffic unit is to dedicate directed patrols for traffic related issues, which is one of the most frequent complaints and concerns in the City. The second most frequent complaint and/or concern in the City is parking related issues. The Parking Enforcement Officer investigates and enforces the City ordinances regarding parking regulations and this year the PEO has proactively sought changes in the ordinance and policies to resolve some of the problematic areas in the residential and commercial areas. The Parking Enforcement Officer position is currently a part time employee but his impact in change and proactive enforcement and problem solving has been essential to the community.

Together, with all Divisions of the Police Department and all Departments within the City government, the Operations División works collaboratively in responding to reported crime and quality of life issues that affects the City and its citizenry. The Operations División fulfills this public safety responsibility by embracing the principles of the government service defined in the City's vision to maintain a safe and vibrant community.

Operations División

In 2013, Recruit Officers Jesse Ortiz and Kevin Hedden were hired. These two recruit officers attended the Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Academy and graduated by fulfilling all the necessary requirements set forth by the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS). These recruit officers were assigned to the Operations Field Training Program where they are required to complete a 14-week program under the tutelage of certified Field Training Officers. Officers Ortiz and Hedden will complete their training phase in April 2014. When their training is complete, they will be assigned to permanent shifts and are expected to make great contributions to the City's workforce in forwarding our mission.

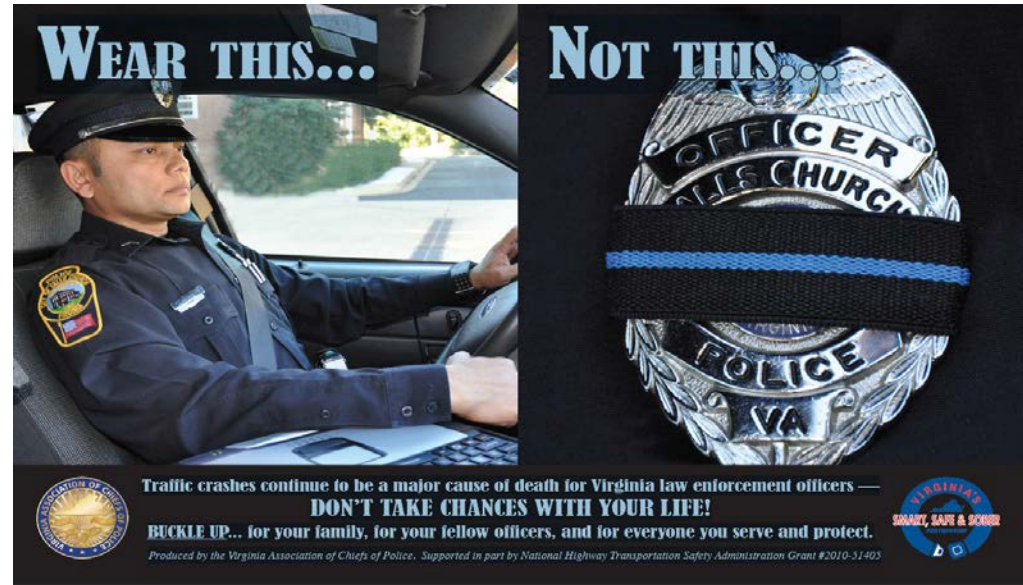


Results and Activities

In calendar year 2013, the Operations División responded to over 27,000 calls for service that did not require a written report and 2431 complaints that did require a written report. The patrol and traffic efforts of the División produced 5553 tickets for traffic violations, made 1500 arrests, responded to and investigated 192 traffic accidents, 655 alarms and issued 3500 tickets for parking violations. In addition, the División provided security, public assistance and crowd control during the Fall Festival and (4) citizen/community sponsored events to include: Watch Night, The Falls Church Education Foundation 5K Run, The Friends of the WOJD Trail 5K Run, and The Senior All-Nighter Party for the George Mason High School graduating class of 2013.

Regional Traffic Campaigns

The Operations Division participates in regional traffic campaigns directed at reducing aggressive driving, speeding, and school zone violations: Washington Regional Alcohol Program, Click it or Ticket, Operation Pedestrian Safety, ASAP's Mothers Against Drunk Driving Campaign and Operation Extra Eyes. In May 2013, Corporal Alan Freed, Officer Sameer Khan, Officer Jannie Clipp and Ms. Nancy Kent were honored at the ASAP'S Mother's Against Drunk Driving Campaign and Officer Sameer Khan was honored with the WRAP Award for his efforts in the fight against drunk driving. In October 2013, Master Police Officer Rick Judd participated in Operations Extra Eyes annual event which is a regional enforcement effort lead by the Town of Vienna Police to focus on aggressive and drunk driving.



Ofc. Chhetri

Operations Community Policing, Projects & Initiatives

Towing Project

During the year 2013, Patrol Officers, Dispatchers, the Towing Advisory Board and Economic Development staff have taken a focused look at the towing practices, ordinances and policies of the City. With assistance and input from the community property managers of the major shopping centers the City ordinance was changed to regulate and better define the expectations of customers and tow companies. Signage regulations were set in place and additional evidence for each tow was submitted and accepted into the ordinance in an attempt to regulate tow companies and to ensure property managers would be accountable for each tow. Overall in 2013, 503 tows were tracked by Falls Church's Emergency Communication Center and more specifically Dispatcher Carly Lumsden and Corporal Alan Freed. Of the 503 tows, Corporal Freed conducted 5 investigations representing various citizens' complaints.

Also during the year, an audit was conducted by Corporal Freed of the tow companies that conduct private property impounds in the City. In all, 1 written warning was issued to a tow company for towing violations. Additional signage was also added to a private property lot which indicated parking restrictions and had no complaints for towed vehicles. This is an improvement from the previous year.

There is still a lot of work to be done in this venue and the Falls Church Police Department is committed to continuing to evolve with the community's needs and assist in resolving the pressures of limited and restricted parking.

Operations Community Policing, Projects & Initiatives

ABC Initiative

Patrol Officers Jannie Clipp, Rachel Henderson, Alex Cruzvergara and Dimitri Issaev have continued to shepherd the community initiative that concentrates patrol efforts on alcohol related offenses throughout the City. This initiative was started in mid year 2010 and has continued through 2013. The ABC team scans problem areas, analyzing data, responding to issues and assessing the community's needs as it related to problems which arise from alcohol related incidents. In the year 2013, the officers made 262 arrests that were alcohol related.

Services Division

The Services Division is comprised of Administrative Services, Special Operations, and Criminal Investigations. The Services Division is responsible for many of the department's functions and programs and oversees specialized units such as the Records, Communications, School Resources, and Community Services.

The Criminal Investigations Unit conducts investigations on all major crimes ranging from homicides and robberies to thefts and financial crimes. The detectives not only investigate criminal matters, but they are also responsible for processing crime scenes. Annually, the Criminal Investigations Unit investigates approximately 250 cases.

Administrative Services oversees the Records and Communications units and manages the department's information and technology systems. The Records Unit is responsible for managing and organizing traffic, criminal incident, and arrest documentation within the Records Management System, and provides clients with police reports, record checks for employment, and accident reports. The Records Unit processes and/or retrieves approximately 10,000 written reports, tickets and other similar information annually. Administrative Services is also responsible for managing the Department's CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch), records management and technology systems, supervising communications personnel, managing the Photo Enforcement System and Accreditation Program, and coordinating the Department's Intern and volunteer programs.

Services Division

Special Operations coordinates and manages special events, community outreach programs, including Community Services and School Resource programs, Parking Enforcement, and is responsible for the training and deployment of the department's Emergency Services unit. Special events include, but are not limited to, Watch Night, Memorial Day and Fourth of July celebrations, and a vast array of runs and marathons. The School Resource Officer (SRO) is assigned full time to the George Mason High School and Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School and provides community resources, crime prevention, and educational services to the students and school staff. The Community Services Officer (CSO) conducts home and business security surveys, provides educational programs both in the elementary and the private/parochial schools, and conducts numerous training programs for our citizens and the business community. The CSO is also the liaison and coordinator for the Crossing Guards and assists with the Photo Enforcement program. The SWAT Team is a highly trained and skilled tactical team prepared to respond with minimum notice to any critical incident.

The Services Division also coordinates and oversees all training for both sworn and civilian employees, maintains 22 police vehicles and trailers, and oversees the evidence/property function of the department which handles approximately 1,000 pieces of evidence annually.

Criminal Investigations Unit

In calendar year 2013, the Criminal Investigations Unit was assigned 239 cases, up slightly from 227 in 2012. Part I offenses, which include serious crimes such as murder, rape, robbery, assault, burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft, were up, overall, by 14% compared to 2012. The jump appears to be primarily in the area of reported assault cases. Cases involving Fraud and Identity Theft cases remained fairly constant. The overall case closure rate for the Criminal Investigations Unit was about 84% for 2013, as compared to 81% in 2012. The City of Falls Church Police Department's case closure rate continues to be higher than the national and regional averages, which range from 69% to 76%.



Here are some highlights of just a few of the cases handled by the City of Falls Church Police Department's Criminal Investigations Unit in 2013:

Recovered Stolen Property

On March 5, 2013, a gentleman came to the Police Station to report that his sister had purchased three computers from an individual at the Eden Center for \$420.00. While helping her activate the computers they noted several references to "University of Pennsylvania" and became concerned that they might be stolen. A week or so later the gentleman called the Police Department again and said that the man who had sold his sister the computers was trying to sell another computer to a business at the Eden Center. Detectives responded to the Eden Center and found the subject selling the computers. The subject gave conflicting accounts of how he came to be in possession of the computers. Based on the interview, the detectives recovered two computers that the subject was trying to sell, but released the subject. After examining the computers, Detectives contacted several colleges and universities in Pennsylvania and determined that all five of the computers had, in fact been stolen. Warrants were obtained for the subject charging him with Receiving Stolen Property, but the subject could not immediately be located. In August, the subject was arrested at Reagan National Airport. The subject was later charged in connection with numerous burglaries in the Pittsburgh area.

Criminal Investigations Unit Highlights

Embezzlement

On March 29, 2013, a Capital One Bank Security Investigator reported that \$35,000.00 had been stolen from the bank's vault. A note was found in the vault assigned to the bank's Head Teller stating "Surprise! If you found this, you must be missing something..." After conducting an audit it was determined that there was a shortage of \$35,000.00. Following a brief investigation that included interviews and reviewing bank security videos, an employee of the bank was identified as the suspect. The stolen money was recovered and the employee was charged with Embezzlement.

UPDATE: 2002 Attempted Murder Case-Eden Center

On Wednesday night, October 30, 2002, the Phong Lan Café and Billiards at the Eden Center was fairly busy. The café was in the front of the business and the billiards tables were in the back. The victims in this case were seated at a table next to the wall in the café. The offender in this case, Long Duc Tran, was in the back at the billiards tables. Tran and the male victim knew each other and had been involved in at least one altercation prior to this incident. When Tran learned that the victim was in the café, he went to confront him. Upon seeing the victim, Tran motioned for him to get up. As the male victim began walking towards him, Tran pulled out a gun and began shooting. Three bullets hit the male victim and two missed, striking a female victim standing behind him. Tran then fled the area. Warrants were issued charging Tran with two counts of Attempted Murder and two counts of Use of a Firearm in the Commission of a Felony.

On July 11, 2013, the FCPD Emergency Communications Unit received a teletype from Henry County (Georgia) Regional Communications Center advising that they had located and arrested Long Duc Tran. On July 21, 2013, Detectives responded to Georgia to transport Tran back to Virginia.

Administrative Services

Emergency Communications Unit:

The Falls Church Police Emergency Communications Unit (ECU) is the E-911 call transfer point for the City. The ECU answers the Police Department's emergency and non-emergency phones 24/7/365, dispatches complaints requiring police officer response, and they are the after-hours contact point for the City. The dispatchers also provide after-hours security for City Hall and all other City buildings, including schools, by monitoring the City's fire/burglary alarm system. The dispatchers monitor the Emergency Public Safety Radio System for the Capitol Region, Weather Radio, Amber Alert System and other emergency notification systems.

The Dispatch Center answers over 80,000 emergency and non-emergency telephone calls and dispatches approximately 24,000 calls for service, annually. In addition, the dispatch center maintains the criminal warrant file system consisting of approximately 400 warrants and conducts computer records checks for approximately 8,000 motor vehicles and 8,500 drivers annually for both the Police Department, as well as the Falls Church Sheriff's Office.

Records Unit:

The Falls Church Police Department Records Unit is a vital part of the overall operation of the organization. Even though we have a comprehensive computerized Records Management System, the Records Unit still handles tens of thousands of paper records that help document every event and activity handled by the department. They record and reroute every parking ticket, traffic summons, and arrest warrant. They scan vehicle impound sheets, court orders, release forms and any other form of documentation that needs to accompany a police report. They issue parking and drive-through permits to our City residents. They create and distribute copies of records for numerous outside agencies, courts, and insurance companies.

Administrative Services

Intersection Safety Program:

During 2013, photo enforcement of red light violations continued at two intersections in the City; E. Broad St. and Cherry St. and W. Broad St. and W. Annandale Rd. A total of 4,757 violation notices were issued in 2013 compared to 4,600 in 2012. This represents an overall reduction in violations of more than 3% compared to 2012. Another year of reduced violations is an encouraging trend that we hope will continue. Current enforcement statistics are available on the City website, and are updated monthly.

In 2013, the Falls Church City Public School system started a Public Safety program aimed at enforcing the laws regarding motorists passing school buses while loading. While this is a school program, the majority of the enforcement and administration of the program will be the responsibility of the Police Department. The program started on October 28, 2013 and to date, 62 citations have been issued.

Training:

Training is a critical function of the Services Division. It keeps Department personnel current with changing trends and technology. Providing quality training to all personnel results in a more professional and capable work force. During 2013, Police Department personnel received over 5,000 hours of training. This training was in the form of Mandatory In-service Retraining, Legal Updates, Firearms Training, First Aid, CPR, OSHA mandated training, and Roll Call training that covers a vast array of topic and subject areas. Additionally, two officers successfully completed Basic Academy Training, spanning 20 weeks (800 hours per officer).

Special Operations

In 2013, Lieutenant Joseph Carter spearheaded the Rape Aggressive Defense (RAD) program. This year marks the 11th annual set of classes (2 each year) hosted by the Falls Church City Police. The participation level of this class has been at full capacity each and every time it has been offered. This popular class teaches women how to confidently defend themselves from stranger attacks on the street or in their homes. The class had a compliment of Law Enforcement instructors from throughout the region including: the George Mason University Police, Town of Vienna Police Department and Prince William County Sherriff's Office.



The enthusiasm and camaraderie built from this class is contagious, but the value is in the reviews and testimonials from participants that speak of how the techniques and confidence learned in this class have actually saved their lives. A true testimony to the camaraderie of this class is the commitment and dedication of the community outreach volunteer Kathleen Dempsey. Ms. Dempsey has partnered with the Falls Church Police Department for over 12 years and faithfully organizes, attends and video tapes every class. She brings a sense of purpose and immediate credibility to the officers and the mission of RAD and her service to this community is invaluable. Approximately 65 participants were certified in RAD in 2013 and Four officers, Lieutenant Joe Carter, Detective Sharee Janda, Detective Sy Symoun, and MPO Justin Cuomo are all Certified RAD Instructors for the City of Falls Church.

Falls Church Special Weapons and Tactical (SWAT) Team

The Falls Church SWAT Team is a specialized unit of highly trained police officers deployed to handle violent and dangerous calls for service that exceed the expertise and/or tactical abilities and equipment of the first responders on patrol. The Team is grounded in basic common sense approaches that behold the preservation of life as their top priority in each and every training session and deployment mission. The SWAT Team members are comprised of officers from every shift/unit within the Department, providing an around the clock tactical capability 24 hours/7 days a week. The SWAT Team members are all actively involved in the National Capital Region's SWAT Association (NCRSA).

This Team provides the Police Department with a credible, effective and capable tactical response within the City's borders and assists mutual aid partners in the region. The Team trains monthly on situations ranging from barricaded gunmen, officer and citizen rescue, high risk entry, first aid skills, and response to numerous high-risk violence incidents. Every member attends an annual week long training event, where skills are honed and teamwork is developed in various disciplines. Each officer is also specially trained in a number of areas of expertise, ranging from precision marksman, less-than lethal force, breaching, command/control of volatile suspects and scenes, and a host of others disciplines.

In April 2013, the SWAT Team hosted a basic SWAT school in Loudoun County, Virginia for the Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Academy. Ten Agencies from Northern Virginia were represented at this week long school which certified 29 officer's in the following areas: Tactical Firearms, Mechanical Breaching, Explosive Diversionary Devices, Building/Room Clearing Techniques, Repelling, Gas Masks/ Gas Deployment, and communication Devices (Robots /Throw Phone).



Falls Church Special Weapons and Tactical (S.W.A.T.) Team

In November 2013, a member from the SWAT Team, Alex Cruzvergara, who is in charge of maintaining and deploying the teams Electronic Equipment, assisted the George Mason High School Robotic Club in their yearly Robot Convention. Officer Cruzvergara explained and demonstrated how the various Robots used by the Falls Church Police SWAT Team can be utilized to size up dangerous situations, communicate, and negotiate an entire house which in turn limits the potential dangers officers would potentially face if this was not an available option.

Notable training in 2013 included:

March 2013 - Team hosted training course through MAGPULL, on utilizing and deploying night vision capability. Numerous agencies from surrounding jurisdiction were in attendance.
-Monthly team training to maintain proficiency with firearms and tactics.

Notable deployments throughout 2013 include:

August 2013- Assist other jurisdiction on a warrant service 1200-block Ellison St.
September 2013- Assisted in providing security for homicide at the Eden Center
November 2013- Assist other jurisdiction on a warrant service 300-block S. West St.
November 2013- Assist other jurisdiction on a warrant service 200-block S. Oak St.
November 2013- Assist other jurisdiction on a warrant service 300-block Grove Ave.
December 2013- Conducted area sweep for a suspect involved in a shooting at 935 West Broad St.
December 2013- warrant service 900-block Ellison St.



Community Services Officer

Another member of the Services Division is the Community Services Officer. The Community Services Officer is responsible for providing home and business security surveys, coordinating the School's Crossing Guards, providing educational programs for the City's elementary schools, as well as the private/parochial schools, and conducting numerous training programs for our citizens and the business community. The Community Services Officer also reviews blueprints and building plans for construction projects in the City and makes recommendations based on Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). The CSO also coordinates National and State Traffic Safety campaigns and assists in managing Traffic Safety Grant programs. Additionally, the CSO provides information for the Weekly Crime report and other press releases.

During 2013, the Community Services Officer:

- Conducted numerous Police Department tours to various groups and organizations.
- Coordinated a collection point for the National Drug Take Back Initiative which is sponsored by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).
- Coordinated numerous traffic safety campaigns including Click It Or Ticket (May) and Checkpoint Strikeforce (Year round impaired driving enforcement).
- Continued the Bicycle & Pedestrian Awareness Week in conjunction with the department's Traffic Unit targeting enforcement in shared use traffic areas.
- Participated in the Arlington/Falls Church TRIAD which is an organization that builds partnerships between senior citizens and law enforcement to enhance safety and improve quality of life.



School Resource Officer

The School Resource Officer is the liaison between the Falls Church City Police Department and George Mason High School/Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School. The SRO is responsible for Law Enforcement and Crime Prevention on the campuses of George Mason High School and Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School. The SRO also provides student, staff and parent education on such topics as Drugs and Alcohol, Driver Safety, Internet Safety, Gangs, and Crime Prevention. The SRO and the School Division Safety and Security Supervisor work together fingerprinting, photographing and issuing employee badges to all Falls Church City Public School employees, as well as maintaining and upgrading the school system's video surveillance system.

Some of the other classes and activities organized and presented by our School Resource Officer during 2013 were:

Classes presented at the High School level:

- 8th Grade Physical Science - Velocity & Speed
- Forensic Chemistry - Effects of drugs and alcohol
- US Government - 4th & 5th Amendments
- Driver's Education (10th Grade)
- Internet Safety (8th Grade)
- Drugs & Alcohol (9th Grade)

Classes presented at the Middle School level:

- Risky Behavior/Gangs/Crime (7th Grade)
- Character Education

All grades, meet with each classroom once during the school year.

Animal Control División



The Animal Control Unit is responsible for the investigation of all complaints related to animals, both companion animals and wildlife. These complaints include, but are not limited to: animal bites, reports of cruelty to animals, injured animals, animal noise complaints, quarantines and impounds, dog licensing and any other calls for service concerning animals. The Animal Control Officer is also a state certified Police Emergency Communications Technician and a trained Parking Enforcement Officer.

The Animal Control Officer responded to 160 calls related to companion animals and was directly involved in the handling, impoundment and disposition of 46 domestic animals. There were 12 animals requiring quarantine; 10 as a result of bite incidents with residents, and 2 for possible exposure to rabies.

The Animal Control Officer responded to 97 wildlife complaints and was directly involved in the handling, impoundment and/or disposition of 10 wild animals.

Some other notable statistics:

Calls for Service 244

Animal Cruelty Investigations 4

Animal Bite Complaints 12

Rabies Exposures 4



Fire Marshal & Emergency Management

The Office of the Fire Marshal and the Office of Emergency Management is a combined Division of the Police Department. This Division is comprised of one (1) Captain that reports directly to the Chief of Police. In addition to those primary duties, the City Fire Marshal is a law enforcement position and serves as part of the Command Staff within the Police Department. As such the position supports any and all emergency events that occur within the City.

In the last three years, the City's response and focus on Emergency Management has been ongoing and engaged with an Earthquake, Hurricane Irene, Tropical Storm Lee, The Derecho, Super Storm Sandy and the tragedy in New Town, Connecticut. The reaction to all these events places a focus on pre-planning and response within all segments of the community. As a result many of the day to day functions described under the Office of the Fire Marshal are temporarily suspended or altered in order to meet the demands of Emergency Preparedness. Both of these positions are critical in nature to meet compliance requirements of either the Federal Government and/or the Commonwealth of Virginia.



Fire Marshal & Emergency Management

Fire Marshal

The mission of the Fire Marshal is life safety and property preservation through the enforcement of the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code. The City Fire Marshal is designated as the Fire Official for the City.



Fire Inspection Program

The Fire Marshal inspects and issues permits required by the Fire Code based upon occupancy type and hazardous operations. These occupancies include restaurants, places of assembly, child care facilities including home daycare, buildings with fire protection systems, pools, tents, automotive repair facilities, warehouses, industrial facilities, and any locations in the city using hazardous materials and operations, including fuel dispensing facilities. In addition, all City facilities are inspected by the Fire Marshal including Falls Church City Public Schools. These inspections are required on an annual basis by the Commonwealth of Virginia and NFPA.

The Fire Marshal reviews all documentation by third party qualified contractors selected by building owners to verify the maintenance, testing and performance of all fire protection systems. Inspections are also conducted on commercial properties on the basis of complaint. The administration of this program includes the financial accounting, billing and collecting of revenues associated with the Fire Inspection Program.

	INSPECTIONS	PERMITS	VIOLATIONS	REVENUE
CY 2013 Falls Church FM	212	150	541	\$38,613
CY 2012 Falls Church FM	200	143	826	\$36,838
CY 2011 Falls Church FM	117	120	368	\$22,255
CY 2007-2010 Arlington	69 - 96	?	?	\$6K - 13K

Fire Marshal & Emergency Management

Since the inception of the Fire Inspection Program in 2011, it is estimated that approximately 85-90 percent of the City's inspectable properties have been entered into the program. This one FTE without support staff, combined with the functions of Emergency Management along with the continued increase in plan review for all new construction projects has hampered the efforts of inspecting all structures on an annual basis. The expansion of the city footprint, in particular, the addition of two city schools will impact the demands on the City Fire Marshal position, since these schools previously had to meet the requirements of Fairfax County.

Fire Investigations

The Fire Marshal is responsible for origin and cause investigations involving fire and explosions as well as environmental crimes. There were six fires reported in 2013 with the most significant fire loss being a residential home. Several fires involved commercial properties in which a working fire suppression system assisted in containing the fires. Total fire loss for the City for CY2013 is estimated under \$500,000.

Plans Review, Inter-departmental and Inter-jurisdictional Assistance

The Fire Marshal assists other city departments including Development Services and Public Works in the review of plans for all new and/or existing structures in the City. Plan review has dramatically increased the workload for this position. Projects include Northgate, Hilton Garden Inn, Harris Teeter, Easter Seals, Thomas Jefferson expansion, the Reserve at Tinner Hill project as well as others. Reviews also include assisting Recreation and Parks in the preparation for Special Events. The Fire Marshal serves on the City Health and Safety Inspection Taskforce. Additional committees include the Northern Virginia Joint Committee on Fire and Arson Investigation and the Council of Governments - Fire Prevention Group.

Fire Marshal & Emergency Management

Accomplishments:

- Continues to meet or exceeds all state regulatory requirements for the Office of the Fire Marshal, including advance certifications in fire origin and cause.
- Update the Fire Marshal website to provide owner/contractor requirements and safety information to the community.
- Improve the use of electronic technology integrated into the Fire Inspection Program.
- Maintains a strong working partnership with the Building Official and Zoning Administrator to formulate team inspections for identified unsafe structures.
- Maintains a strong partnership with the City's Planning Office to perform plans review for construction projects to identify design deficiencies that could impede the effectiveness of emergency operations.
- Maintains Fire Investigation and Emergency Management Response Vehicle, this also serves as a Police Command function.
- Provide specialty training to both Falls Church City Public Schools.
- Assisted the Police Department in coordination of the testing for the rank of Lieutenant.

Specific Upcoming Objectives:

- Continue to obtain completion of 100% of all inspectable commercial structures in the City per the requirements of the Statewide Fire Prevention Code on an annual basis.



Fire Marshal & Emergency Management

Emergency Management

Emergency Management provides the leadership, coordination and operational planning that enables the City's response to, and recovery from, the impact of natural and man-made hazards. OEM's responsibilities are local and regional in nature, and are components of the Department of Homeland Security. OEM ensures the City meets and maintains the goals of the National Incident Management System (NIMS). This is accomplished by promoting emergency planning, public education and emergency training and exercises throughout the City. Emergency Management is divided into four phases Mitigation, Preparedness, Response and Recovery. The City Manager serves as the Director of Emergency Management, while the City Fire Marshal Serves as the Coordinator of Emergency Management.

Programs administered by OEM include the management of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), review and updates of the following: Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP), Regional Hazardous Mitigation Plan, NIMSCAST Compliance Reporting and the Local Capability Assessment for Readiness (LCAR) report. Additional management of communication programs under OEM includes WebEOC, Alert Falls Church, Satellite Phones, Video Tele-Conferencing (VTC) and the administration of the Government Emergency Telecommunications Service (GETS) cards.

Collateral duties for the Coordinator of Emergency Management include attending meetings with the Northern Virginia Regional Emergency Managers. OEM also serves as a point of contact for the Virginia Department of Emergency Management and the Council of Governments Emergency Managers sub-committee.

Fire Marshal & Emergency Management

Accomplishments:

- Established a Citywide "Emergency Operations Planning Team." All Departments having an Emergency Support Function (ESF) provide at least one representative to this team. This team will focus on Emergency Planning and be responsible to assist their Department Head in the development of those Emergency Plans required by the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP).
- Received Local Emergency Performance Grant from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management. This is a grant that must now be managed by the Emergency Manager/Fire Marshal.
- Review the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) to meet compliance with Federal and State requirements.
- Review the Hazard Mitigation Plan as part of a regional effort to include 20 jurisdictions.
- Coordinated NIMS training city-wide to meet Federal and State compliance.
- Completed NIMSCAST reporting indicating response capabilities as required.
- Completed Local Capability Assessment for Readiness (LCAR) report to the Commonwealth of Virginia, as required.
- Test the capabilities of city Satellite Phones.
- Actively participated in the Virginia Multi-Agency Coordination Center (MACC) for the Presidential Inauguration.
- Participated in Virginia Statewide Tornado and Earthquake Drills.
- Maintain Government Emergency Telecommunications Service (GETS) cards to City Leadership.
- Continued involvement with Finance on two Federal Reimbursements for the Derecho and Super Storm Sandy accounting for as much as \$400,000.
- Coordinated the delivery of Run-Hide-Fight "Active Shooter" training for all of City staff.
- Coordinate planning efforts with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management planner assigned to the City of Falls Church.
- Assist the Chief of Police when requested for Emergency Management guidance.

Fire Marshal & Emergency Management

Priorities FY2014

- Develop *Lunch and Learn*, emergency preparedness training session for city staff.
- Coordinate and develop a City Shelter Plan.
- Coordinate and develop a Volunteer/Donation Management Plan.
- Coordinate and update a Debris Management Plan.
- Coordinate and update the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)
- Establish MOU with the National Capital Area Red Cross
- Establish MOU with Volunteer Fairfax
- Acquire Debris Management windshield assessment kits.
- Acquire an Enhanced Emergency Notification System to contact residents.
- Train and exercise city staff on Emergency Shelter Operations
- Participate in the State VERTEX Drill in June 2014.
- Plan and develop an expanded Emergency Management website to include an enhanced section on *Community Resilience Training*.
- Continue to coordinate Emergency Support Training for all city staff
- Continue and deliver the Run-Hide-Fight "Active Shooter" training.
- Coordinate with the Chief of Police a table-top drill, followed by a functional exercise. The effectiveness of how each department and agency responds must be tested to determine areas of need for an actual event.

Photo Gallery

2013 Safety Patrol Awards



Photo Gallery

2013 Safety Patrol Awards

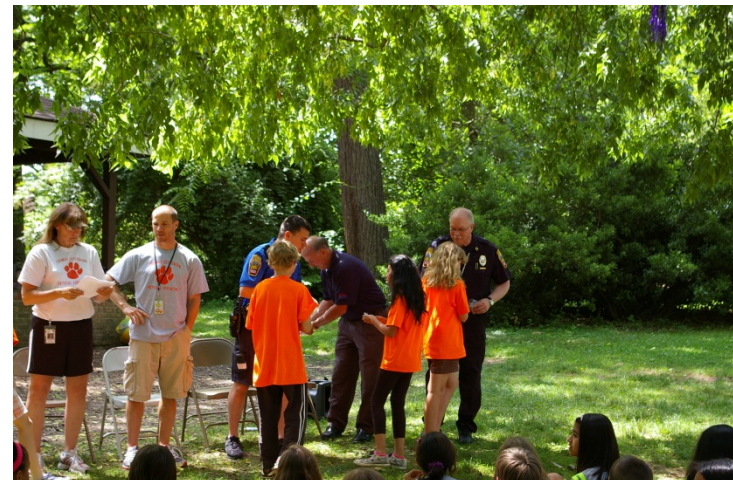


Photo Gallery

Corporal/Sergeant Promotions



Photo Gallery

Drug Take Back Day



